Roma poverty from a human development perspective
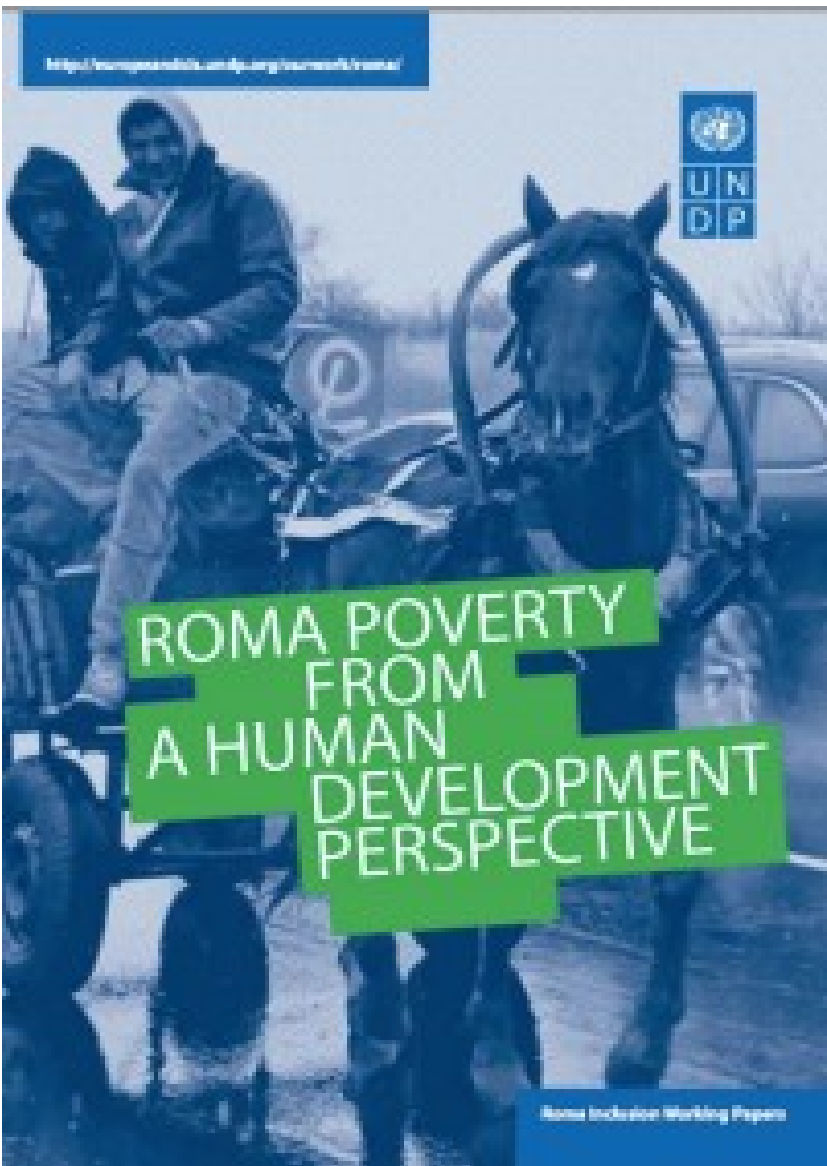
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Roma Decade ISC Meeting
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Presentation themes

- Poverty as cross-cutting issue in the Roma Decade
- A human development approach to Roma poverty
  - Monetary versus non-monetary poverty
  - Multidimensional poverty index
- Why this matters
- Some possible future considerations
  - Data
  - Indicators

Roma Decade: Priority areas and cross-cutting themes

	Cross-cutting themes		
Priority areas	Poverty reduction	Gender equality	Anti-discrimination
Employment	**XX**		
Education	**XX**		
Health	**XX**		
Housing	**XX**		

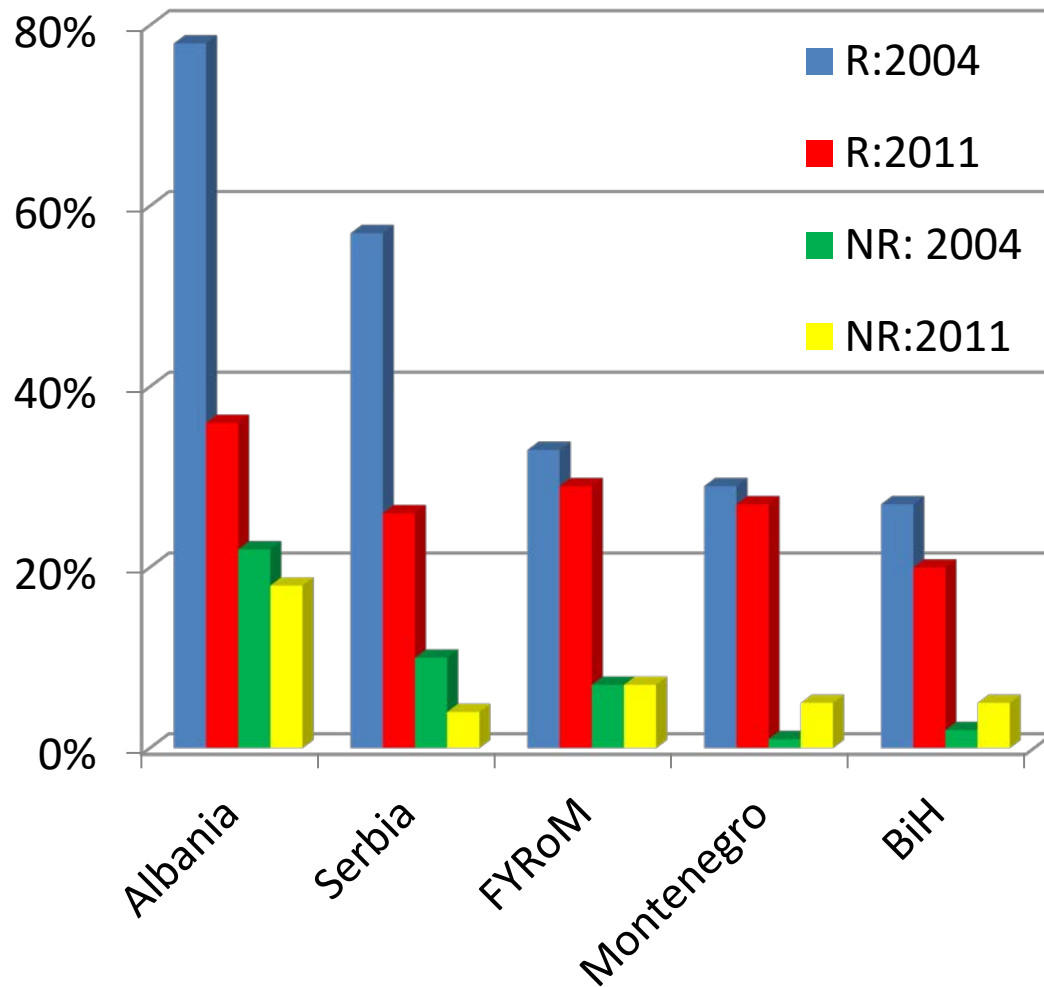# How to develop systematic, holistic approaches to Roma poverty?

- Make use of quantitative data
  - 2004 regional Roma data set (baseline)
  - 2011 regional Roma data set (midpoint)
- Apply appropriate indicator(s)
  - Monetary poverty: Income poverty rates
  - Broader measures: Multidimensional poverty index (MPI)
- Anchor to human development paradigm

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Monetary poverty: Measurement

- PPP$4.30/day threshold, based on:
  - Equivalized household budget survey data, showing reported household expenditures
    - Proxy for per-capita income
  - Internationally comparable exchange rates
- This approach often used to measure poverty in:
  - Middle-income countries
  - Where:
    - Extreme poverty is not the issue
    - Significant shares of household budgets are spent on winter heating, clothes
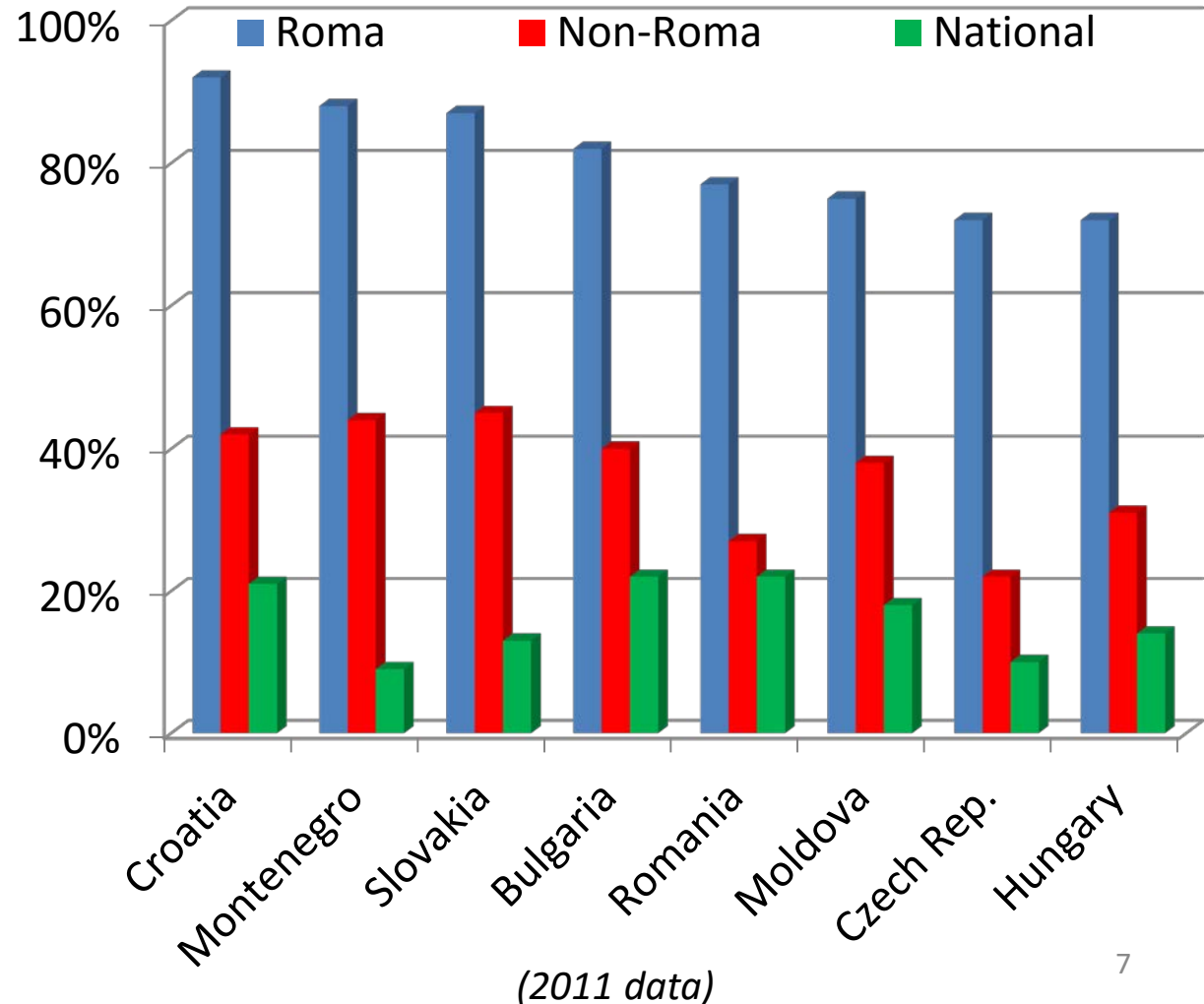
What do these data show?
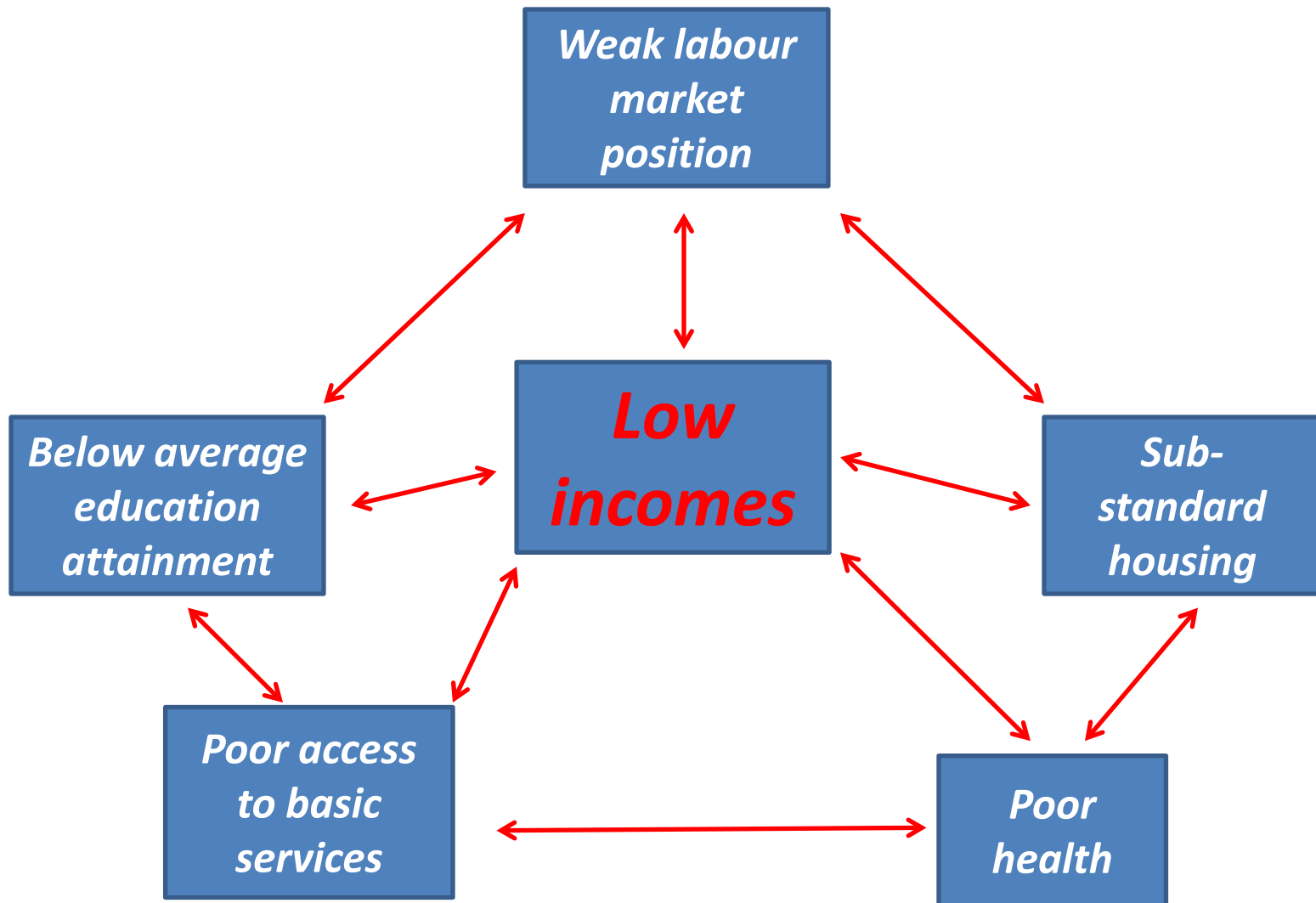

"R"—Roma; "NR"—Non-Roma

- Monetary poverty rates during 2004-2011 fell for:
  - Roma
  - Non-Roma
- Greater declines in poverty for Roma than for:
  - Non-Roma living in close proximity
  - Countries as a whole
- Particularly large declines for:
  - Albania
  - Serbia
- Declines in Roma poverty due in part to high initial levels?

Income inequality (relative poverty rates)
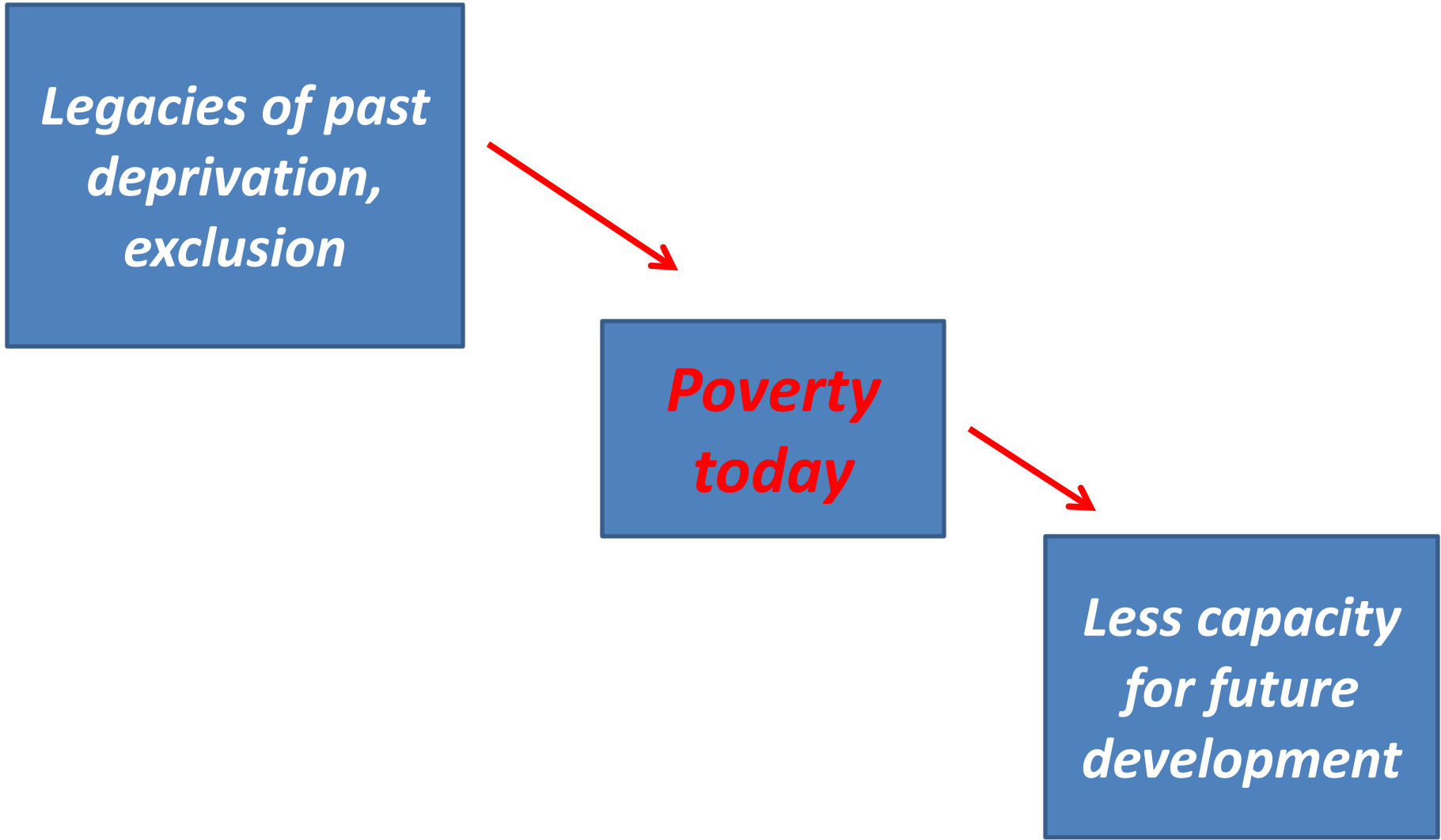
- Eurostat (relative) poverty threshold: 60% of median income

- *Income inequality is much greater than national averages* for both:
  - Roma
  - Non-Roma living in proximity

- How should this be interpreted?

(2011 data)

Roma poverty is multidimensional (not only about low incomes)

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                    Weak labour
                      market
                     position


Below average          Low                    Sub-
  education           incomes                standard
 attainment                                   housing


     Poor access                      Poor
      to basic                        health
      services
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Roma poverty is also multi-generational

Legacies of past deprivation, exclusion

Poverty today

Less capacity for future development

The human development paradigm can capture these dimensions

- Improving people's lives should be the objective of development

- Development challenges are inter-generational:
  - Access to services (education, health) needed to respond
  - Addressing inequalities: A key issue

- Rights-based approach to development

Mahbub ul Haq

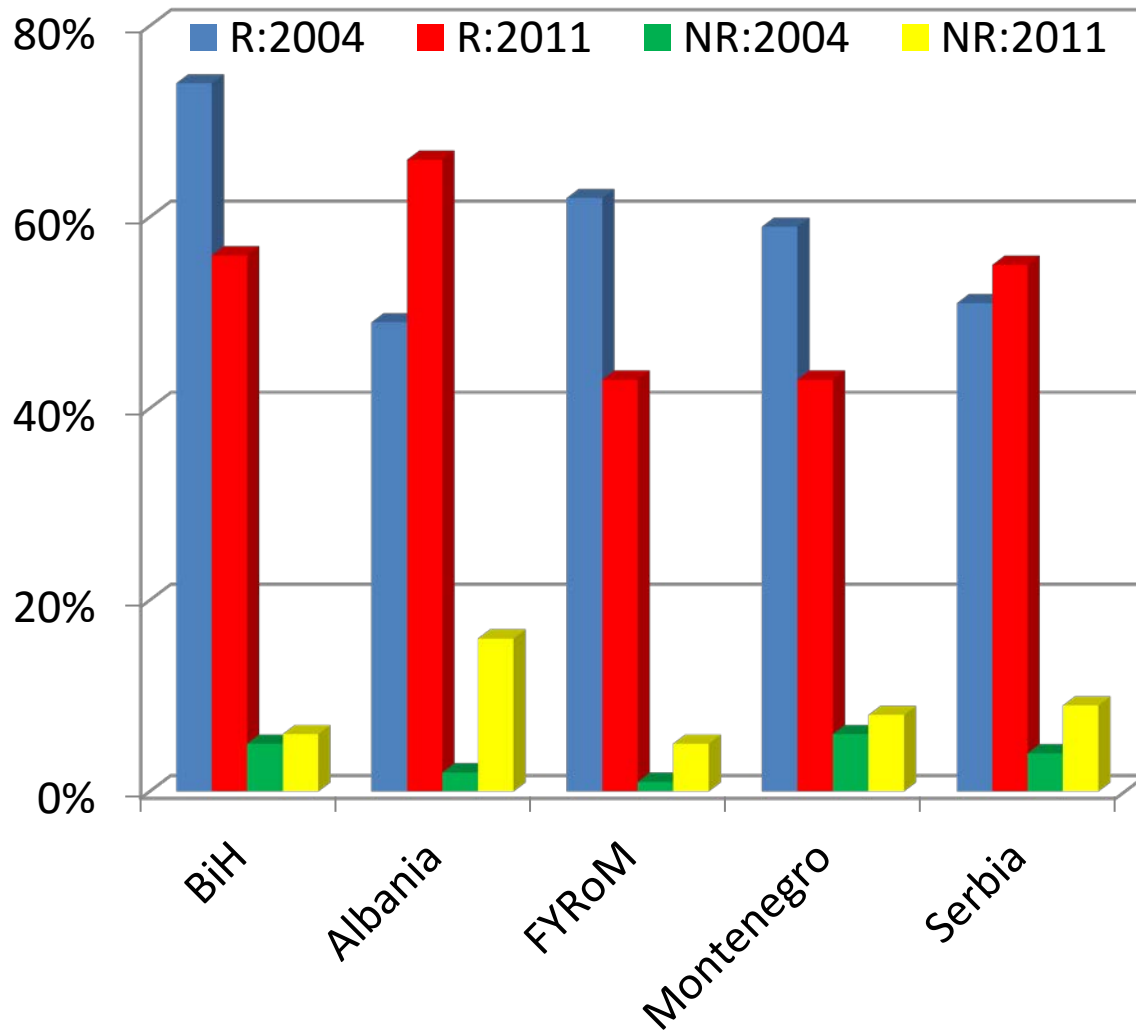*Amartya Sen*

Multi-dimensional poverty index

MPI aggregates different indicators of current, future welfare

Area	Dimension	Indicator
Material well-being (current welfare)	Housing	Access to basic services
		Livings in "slums"
	Living standards	Extreme poverty
		Access to household amenities
	Labour market	Unemployment
		Lack of work experience
Human capabilities (future welfare)	Basic rights	Civil status (IDs)
		Discrimination
	Health	Disabilities
		Limited access to health care
	Education	Education attainment
		Literacy

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Ivanov-Kagin MPI methodology

- Data for indicators are taken from:
  - National statistics
  - Targeted regional surveys of:
    - Roma
    - Non-Roma living in proximity
- An individual is considered:
  - "Multi-dimensionally poor" if s/he falls below the threshold for 5-7 indicators
  - "Severely multi-dimensionally poor" if s/he falls below the threshold for more than 7 indicators
- Thresholds are indicator-specific
  - If a respondent has an ID, s/he is above the "civil status" threshold
- Different specifications/methodological choices produce different results
  - Policy considerations should dictate these choices

What does the MPI tell us?

"R"—Roma; "NR"—Non-Roma

- Multi-dimensional poverty rates:
  – Generally high
  – Rising for non-Roma (in close proximity)

- For Roma—MPIs:
  – Fell in FYRoM, BiH, Montenegro
  – Rose in Serbia, Albania

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Some conclusions from the paper

- People-centred (as opposed to solely monetary) measures of Roma poverty, addressing all the Decade's priority areas, can be devised and used
- They can produce very different results
  - Example: In Albania and Serbia, during 2004-2011, Roma poverty when measured in:
    - Monetary terms—it fell
    - Multi-dimensional terms—it rose
  - These differences are important for policies in key sectors where higher incomes may not automatically translate into better living conditions
    - Housing
- Income inequalities among Roma are much greater than among populations overall

Possible future considerations: Data

- More Roma inclusion data are needed
  - Disaggregated by ethnicity
- Nationally: Statistical authorities
- Regionally:
  - If the data from the 2004 regional Roma survey provided a baseline for the Decade . . .
  - . . . And if the 2011 regional Roma survey data offer a mid-term assessment . . .
  - . . . Shouldn't we have another survey in 2015—at the end-point of the Decade (in its current form)?
- UNDP would welcome the opportunity to work with FRA, other partners on this

Possible future considerations: Indicators

- Like the Decade (in its current form), the Millennium Development Goals end in 2015

- Their successors—the Sustainable Development Goals—are now being negotiated by UN member states

- Unlike MDGs, SDGs are to be universal

Key driver: Inter-governmental Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs

- Seven Decade countries represented on the OWG: Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Spain

- OWG proposed 17 draft SDGs in mid-July
  - 170 targets
  - No indicators yet specified
  - Negotiations on these issues now on-going

- SDGs to be submitted to UN General Assembly at September 2015 Summit for approval

Roma inclusion indicators and the SDGs: A lot in common?

- SDG1: *End poverty in all its forms everywhere.*
- SDG2: *End hunger/food insecurity, improve nutrition . . .*
- SDG3: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all . . .*
- SDG4: *Ensure inclusive, equitable, quality education . . .*
- SDG5: *Ensure gender equality, empower women and girls . . .*
- SDG6: *Ensure availability . . . of water and sanitation for all.*
- SDG7: *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.*
- SDG8: *Promote . . . full and productive employment and decent work for all.*
- SDG10: *Reduce inequality within and among countries.*
- SDG11: *Make . . . human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.*

In conclusion—UNDP:

- Thanks Andrey Ivanov and Justin Kagin for this important, innovative study, and

- Invites Decade partners to consider joint action on:

  – Data and indicators

  – Contextualizing them vis-à-vis the post-2015 future of Roma inclusion policies and programming, especially regarding:

    - The future of the Roma Decade

    - Other relevant post-2015 global and regional monitoring frameworks (e.g., SDGs)

Thank you very much!

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